

Annual Report

FOR

1897,

BY

TREVOR FOWLER,

L.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., CAMB., ETC.,

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF

EPPING.

EPPING:

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ANNUAL REPORT,

1897.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the Epping Urban District for the year 1897.

Unlike the report presented to you for 1896, we have this year the full period of twelve months to deal with, and we are thus for the first time in a position to calculate the statistics for the district upon really reliable data.

Inspections.—These have been fairly numerous, and may be summarised as follows :

Jan.	Ivy Chimneys	...	Dilapidated Cottages, etc.
	Coopersale Common		Insanitary Cottages.
	Queen's Alley	...	Do. do.
	Bell Common	...	Do. do.
Feb.	Queen's Alley	...	Do. do.
	Coopersale Street	...	Do. do.
	Coopersale Common		Do. do.
May	High Street	...	Do. do.
	Twankham's Alley	...	Dilapidated Cottage.
	Ivy Chimneys	...	(re-inspection) Insanitary Cottages.
June	Hemnall Street	...	Defective Drainage.
	High Street	...	Meat Inspection.
	High Street	...	Defective Drainage.
	Lindsey Street	...	Infection in Cottage.
July	Ivy Chimneys	...	Infection and defective drainage.
	High Street	...	Defective drainage and defective water supply.
	High Street	...	Defective house drainage and overcrowding.
	Hemnall Street	...	Infection in cottage.
	Bell Common	...	Infection in dirty cottage.
Sept.	Rookery	... ..	Infection in dilapidated and overcrowded cottage.
Oct.	High Street	...	Infection in dirty house.
	Ivy Chimneys	...	Infection and defective drainage.

Each of the above inspections, with such remarks as were called for, has been duly reported to your Council in my fortnightly reports.



SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

As a result of the above inspections, as well as of the house to house inspections made by your Sanitary Inspector, a considerable number of improvements have taken place. Thirty-one houses have been connected with the main sewer, and the drainage of a large number of others has been improved, a number of w.c.'s have taken the place of old cesspit privies. Three houses were closed under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and one case of overcrowding has been abated. Some 17 houses have been connected with the Water Company's mains, and one well has been cleansed after notice. Arrangements have been made by your Council for the regular removal of house-refuse. Much delay has occurred in obtaining the approval of the Local Government Board to the Bye-laws proposed to be adopted by your Council, but it is hoped that these will 'ere long come into force in the district.

ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

The following Table shows the number of cases of each infectious disease notified for each month during the year.

	SCARLET FEVER.	DIPHTHERIA.	TYPHOID FEVER.	ERYSIPELAS.	TOTALS.
January	...	1	5	...	6
February	...	...	...	...	...
March	1	...	...	1	2
April	...	...	...	...	...
May	4	...	...	...	4
June	5	...	2	...	7
July	4	1	...	...	5
August	2	...	...	...	2
Sept.	3	...	1	1	5
Oct.	4	1	...	...	5
Nov.	1	...	...	...	1
Dec.	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.	24	3	8	2	37

One of the cases of Erysipelas in this Table occurred in Epping Union Workhouse. In every other instance the houses were inspected, and means were adopted for the prevention of the spread of infection. Every one of the Scarlet Fever cases was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Rood Street; one of the Diphtheria cases and six of the Typhoid Fever cases were also removed there.

Scarlet Fever.—During the first four months of the year only one case of this disease was notified, and it almost appeared that the epidemic which had prevailed in the district since the beginning of the year 1896 had at last come to an end. In the month of May, however, new cases occurred almost simultaneously in High Street, Twankham's Alley, and St. John's Road. Where infection came from in these instances, it is not possible to say, but from this time on, until the middle of November, as many as 23 cases occurred in the district.

The majority of these were in the High Street, and in the poorer class of houses—houses in which the Sanitary conditions are faulty, and which are commonly overcrowded. Since the middle of November no new case has been notified, and it is again hoped that the epidemic has now finally been stamped out.

The disease has been of a mild type, and caused only one death during the year; this was the case of a child removed from the Ivy Chimneys in July, and who died in the Isolation Hospital from membranous croup, as a complication.

Typhoid Fever.—In the month of January five cases of Typhoid Fever occurred in a small cottage at the end of Union Terrace, infection evidently having been contracted from two previous cases in the same cottage, which had been nursed at home. These five cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, where one of them proved fatal. There was, however, no further spread of the disease. The remaining three cases occurred in separate isolated houses, two of them of a good description, although not without sanitary defects, which have since been overhauled and thoroughly rectified. The third case occurred in a miserable little cottage in the Rookery, which was

also grossly overcrowded at the time. No new case of this disease was notified in the district during the last three months of the year.

Diphtheria.—Of the three cases of Diphtheria, the first occurred in a poor cottage in the Rookery in the month of January, the second occurred in a cottage on Bell Common, a cottage in which one of the bedroom walls was so damp that the room could not be used, and thereby caused overcrowding in the other room. This case proved fatal, in spite of the fact that antitoxin serum had been used in the treatment. The third case occurred in a new brick cottage at the Ivy Chimneys. It is possible that dampness of the new walls and the defective drainage here may have been instrumental in producing the disease.

Of other infectious diseases, Whooping Cough and Diarrhœa each caused two deaths, but there is nothing to call for remark in connection with these. Influenza again appeared in the district towards the end of the year, and was showing a tendency to become epidemic at the end of December. The solitary death recorded to it occurred in the month of May.

Cause and Distribution of Disease.—Phthisis and other tubercular diseases caused eleven deaths in the district during the year. Cancer caused nine deaths, two of which, however, occurred in the Workhouse, and did not, properly speaking, belong to the district. Pulmonary diseases caused 10 deaths, and Heart disease eight.

One of the deaths from Phthisis was the case of a baker, an occupation which renders those who follow it peculiarly liable to that disease. Of the other deaths from this and other forms of tubercular disease, as well as from Bronchitis and Pulmonary diseases generally, the majority occurred in cottage dwellings amongst the poor. I have in previous reports called attention to the intimate connection between sickness and the defective housing of the poor in this district; and, to say again, that where you have poor people living in such faulty houses as are to be found only too commonly in this district, there you will find such diseases as Tubercle in its various forms and Pulmonary diseases prevailing, is but to repeat a truism.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

It is not necessary again to call attention to the need of drainage for the south side of the district, as the question of providing public sewerage has been before your Council so many times during the year. Matters are now in a fair state of progress, and it cannot be long before a satisfactory scheme has been carried out. Some progress has also been made in remedying the defective drainage in other parts of the district already provided with public sewers, but it will still be necessary to insist upon the removal of all cesspools in the town, and to see that every house is properly connected with the sewers before it can be said that our sanitary condition as regards drainage is satisfactory. The custom of hand flushing of w.c's. instead of providing them with cisterns, which is common in the district, is very objectionable, and should not be permitted. The need of properly-constructed dust bins, which is also general, should be attended to. As regards the slaughter-yards in the district, they have in most instances been found well attended to and clean upon inspection, but there is no doubt the situation of most of them is objectionably near the neighbouring dwellings, and the methods of disposal of the offal are not always satisfactory. A public slaughter-yard appears to be the only solution of these difficulties.

Water Supply is a question which has received a large share of attention by most Local Authorities since the calamitous outbreaks of Typhoid Fever at Maidstone and Lynn, and the regular periodic examination of the Herts and Essex Company's supply which your Council has instructed me to make is a wise precaution, but it must not be supposed that a chemical analysis, such as I have reported to your Council each month, is to be relied upon as absolute proof of safety; much more important is it to know that the possibility of contamination of this water with sewage matters, either at its source or in its distribution, is exceedingly remote. A real danger, however, does threaten those unfortunate people in the district, of whom there are still a great many, whose water supply is derived from polluted wells of the very worst description; and that your Council is bound,

at whatever cost, to take action with respect to these, there cannot be the slightest doubt.

Defective housing of the Working Classes and overcrowding are evils existing to a serious extent in the district, and there is no doubt that much of the sickness in the district is due to them. No improvement, however, can be looked for until a sufficient number of cottages of a better description have been provided. From what source these are to come there are at present no indications to show.

The isolation of cases of infectious diseases is a matter which has caused your Council some anxiety during the past year. The present arrangement with the Rural Council, by which your cases are treated in the Hospital at Rood Street, is one that is not looked upon entirely with favour by your Council, nor is it likely much longer to be sanctioned by the Essex County Council. It has become necessary, therefore, that other arrangements, more in accordance with your views, and with the requirements of the County Council, shall be made. Whether this will best be effected by a combination with the districts of Waltham Cross, Chingford, and Buckhurst Hill, or by a new and more satisfactory agreement with the Epping Rural Council, is a matter for careful consideration. The Rood Street Hospital has the great advantage of being close to the district, being not more than half-a-mile from the nearest point, and under three miles from the furthest. It will certainly have to be considerably altered, even if it is to be retained for the use of the Rural district alone; and if a joint Hospital Committee of representatives of both Councils, proportionate to the population of the districts, could be appointed, an arrangement might be come to which would be mutually advantageous. Such an arrangement would appear to me to be infinitely better than one whereby every case from this district would have to be sent to a Hospital, situated probably at least five or six miles from the nearest point of the district, and whereby your Council would be committed to share in the purchase of the site, and in the cost of erection and maintenance, of a Hospital for districts so much more populous than, and so dissimilar in character to, either your own, or the Epping Rural District.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the district at the last census (1891) was 3318, and the estimated population to the middle of 1897 was 3380.

The Births registered during the year were 84, which gives a birth-rate upon the estimated population of 24·8 per 1000.

Deaths.—There were 66 deaths of persons belonging to the district, making the total death-rate 19·5 per 1000 for the year.

Infant Mortality.—Of the 66 deaths, 7 were of infants under one year of age. Measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, this gives a death-rate of 106·0 per 1000.

Zymotic Diseases caused 9 deaths, viz: Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, Typhoid Fever 3, Whooping Cough 2, Diarrhœa 2. The deaths from this cause being equal to 2·6 per 1000.

Appended to this report are the Sanitary Inspector's Statement, and the Tables A and B classifying the Deaths, and new cases of sickness, for the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

TREVOR FOWLER,

L.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., CAMB., ETC.,

To

Medical Officer of Health.

The Epping Urban District Council.

EPPING,

February 10th, 1898.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

Inspections and Notices.

Inspections and re-inspections	156
Cottages specially inspected	...	...	...	38
Houses visited in "House-to-house visitations"	...	...	...	306
Slaughter-houses inspected	...	...	...	4
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	6
School premises inspected	...	...	...	3
Notices served (Preliminary 81, Statutory 13)	...	...	...	94
Notice to M.O.H. <i>re</i> nuisance	...	...	...	1
Notices to Dust Contractor	...	...	...	5

Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease removed to hospital	...	...	...	31
„ „ „ isolated in own home	...	...	...	6
Houses fumigated after infectious disease	...	...	...	18
„ cleansed and limewashed after infectious disease	...	...	...	17
Compensation for destruction of infected bedding,	£5	4s.	...	
Infected Corpses, early interment of	...	...	...	4

Improvements effected and Nuisances abated after Notice.

Complaints received <i>re</i> alleged nuisances	...	...	...	44
Nuisances detected	...	...	...	102
„ abated (some still under notice)	...	...	...	95
Houses connected with the main sewer	...	...	...	31
House drainage improved	...	...	...	55
Cottages repaired	...	...	...	19
„ provided with roof guttering and spouting	...	...	...	20
Obstructive building removed	...	...	...	1
Houses closed under Housing of Working Classes' Act	...	...	...	3
Yard paved	...	...	...	1
Cesspool constructed	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s erected in place of privies	...	...	...	14

New Privies built	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C.'s and Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse „	...	...	...	...	...	7
Putrid sheep's skin removed and destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sinks disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bumby-hole emptied and filled in	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pigsty cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Caravans removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Unsound fish seized and destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Animals improperly kept removed	...	...	...	...	...	2

Water Supply.

Houses connected with Company's Mains	...	...	...	...	17
Reports to Surveyor <i>re</i> absence of supply	...	...	...	...	3
Water samples to M.O.H. for analysis	...	...	...	...	2
Well cleansed after notice	...	...	...	...	1

Milk Supply.

Dairymen on Register	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies and Milkshops inspected	...	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	5
„ limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	3
Notice to Dairymen <i>re</i> infectious disease	...	...	...	...	1

Legal.

Applications to Magistrates under H. of W. C. Act	...	...	...	...	6
Closing Orders granted	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ refused	...	...	...	...	3
Magistrate's order to destroy unsound fish	...	...	...	...	1

Signed,

GEO. H. PEGRAM,

Sanitary Inspector.

A.—TABLE OF DEATHS DURING 1897.
Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.

Names of Localities.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Epping Urban District.	59	7	8	6	1	17	20
Epping Union Workhouse.	23	...	1	...	...	7	15
TOTALS.	82	7	9	6	1	24	35

Mortality from subjoined causes at ages below and above 5 years.

Names of Localities.	Age Period.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Epping Urban District.	und'r 5	1	...	2	2	...	...	5	...	...	5	15
	over 5	...	1	...	...	1	6	5	8	1	22	44
Epping Union Workhouse.	und'r 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	over 5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	3	...	14	22
TOTALS.	und'r 5	1	...	2	2	...	...	6	...	...	5	16
	over 5	...	1	...	...	1	8	8	11	1	36	66

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

	At all ages.	1 and under 5	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	7	1	1	3	2
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	18	1	...	6	11

	Age Period.	Scarlatina.	Typhoid.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	All other Diseases.	TOTALS.
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	und'r 5 over 5	1 ...	... 2	... 1	... ...	... 1	... 2	1 6
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	und'r 5 over 5	... ...	... ...	... 1	1 2	... 2	... 12	1 17

B.—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS IN 1897.

Names of Localities.	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.	Registered Births.	Age Period.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Total.
Epping Urban District.	3318	3380	84	und'r 5	6	1	...	1	8
				over 5	18	2	8	...	28
Epping Union Workhouse.		115		und'r 5	...	...	...	...
				over 5	...	...	...	1	1

Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.

Name of Locality.	Age Period.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Total.
Epping Urban District.	Under 5	6	...	...	6
	Over 5.	18	1	6	25